

Moroccan Secret Police Chief Surrenders in Paris

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Ben Barka Trial Suspended When Key Figure Arrives Under a False Name

By HENRY TANNER

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PARIS, Oct. 19—The head of the Moroccan secret police made a dramatic surrender to French authorities today and thus forced the indefinite suspension of the Ben Barka kidnapping trial.

Lieut. Col. Ahmed Dlimi, who had been scheduled to go on trial in absentia tomorrow for his part in the abduction and possible murder of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan nationalist leader, drove into the courtyard of the ornate Palais de Justice.

He posed for photographers, smiled and waved to acquaintances in the crowd of reporters before being led away by the French police.

He arrived from Morocco early yesterday under a false name and minus his hairline mustache.

He was not recognized as he passed through immigration controls at Orly Airport. All day yesterday and earlier today he eluded the police while his French lawyer conferred with the president of the court.

Adjournment Requested

His appearance at the Palais came during an intermission in the proceedings. When the trial resumed, the prosecutor asked for an adjournment to permit the presentation of new evidence. Attorneys for Mr. Ben Barka's family, which is the plaintiff, and for five of the six French and Moroccan defendants in the dock quickly supported the request.

The exception was the lawyer for Philippe Bernier, a one-time newspaper man who has been accused of acting as a go-between between Mr. Ben Barka and his abductors.

During the trial the impression had been gained that Mr. Bernier, while instrumental in bringing Mr. Ben Barka to the meeting place with the abductors, was not aware of the kidnapping plot. The prosecutor, though expressing his belief in Mr. Bernier's guilt, had given the jurors the choice of acquitting Mr. Bernier or giving him a heavy prison sentence.

As a result, Mr. Bernier, was known to have felt that he was within a day of freedom. The verdicts were to have been handed down tonight.

Screams and Insults Court

When adjournment was proposed, he screamed and shouted insults at the court, then broke down sobbing. He was led out of the defendants' box.



Associated Press Cablephoto

Lieut. Col. Ahmed Dlimi, head of Moroccan secret police, is led into the Palais de Justice after his surrender.

Attorneys for both sides expect the suspension to last many weeks, or perhaps months, as the new evidence submitted by Colonel Dlimi is sifted. Each of the defendants' cases must be re-examined in the light of his testimony.

Mr. Bernier and another defendant, Roger Voittot, a low-ranking police officer who admitted to being one of the abductors but said that he had acted under orders from his superiors, won provisional freedom pending the eventual verdict. Their release, which does not prejudice the verdict, was announced by the court's president at the end of today's session.

Colonel Dlimi is one of three high-ranking Moroccan officials involved in the Ben Barka affair. The others are the Minister of the Interior, Gen. Mohammed Oufkir, and a police official who has figured in the proceedings as Larbi Chtouli, a pseudonym. It has been established in

testimony that the three Moroccan officials were present on the day at the suburban villa where Mr. Ben Barka was last seen alive.

Mr. Ben Barka was kidnapped shortly after noon on Oct. 20, 1965, in front of a restaurant. The French police officers who carried out the abduction say that they thought they were bringing about a discreet political rendezvous between the exiled leader and Moroccan officials.